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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

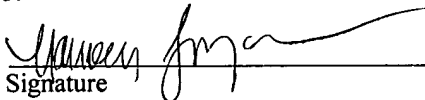
Applicant: Kirwan, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/744,698  
Confirmation No.: 3328  
Filed: May 14, 2001  
For: UNIVERSAL MODULAR SURGICAL APPLICATOR  
SYSTEMS

Examiner: Roz Maiorino  
Art Unit: 3763

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to **MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 2 day of May, 2005.

  
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Signature

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**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 2, 2004, Applicants respectfully request for consideration in view of the following remarks.

**The Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2.

**Remarks** begin on page 6.